

Rainbow Lorikeets at Safety Bay.—On February 4, 1978 I heard the loud, excited chatter of lorikeets coming from a group of Norfolk Island Pines, Peppermints (*Agonis flexuosa*) and eucalypts about 300 m from the jetty opposite Penguin Island at Safety Bay. Moments later I saw two birds burst from the group of trees, and still calling, fly swiftly north. The sun momentarily caught the reddish breast of one bird, confirming my first impression that they were Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*).

I was in the vicinity from February 4-13 and heard the lorikeets calling in the distance twice more (on the 9th and 12th). On the latter occasion I managed to get close to the tree they were in (a flowering Tuart, *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), but the four birds flew off before I could establish which race of Rainbow Lorikeet they belonged to. I presume they are part of the population of eastern Australian Rainbow Lorikeets (*T. haematodus moluccanus*), first recorded in Western Australia by Storr in March 1968 (see *W.A. Nat.*, 12: 116). All but one of the sightings he reported (Goosberry Hill), were from well established inner suburbs of Perth.

—L. A. SMITH, Western Australian Museum, Perth.

Tropical Seeds Washed up on Western Australian Beaches.—Occasionally the seeds and fruits of tropical plants are found washed up on beaches in South-Western Australia (K. F. Kenneally, Tropical seeds and fruits washed up on the South-West coast of Western Australia, *W.A. Naturalist*, 12, 1972: 73-80). The usual theories for their arrival here involve drifting many hundreds of miles on ocean currents although it is acknowledged that Man may play a hand in their transportation. My own interest in the matter was stimulated by the finding of a seed of *Caesalpinia bonduc* on the shores of Penguin Island (Excursions: Penguin Island, Safety Bay, *W.A. Naturalist*, 12; 1973: 117-120).

In Ghana this seed is used to play a very popular game called 'oware'—in fact its Twi name is "oware-aba"—which involves the movement of some 50 seeds as 'counters' along a double row of depressions in the 'oware board'. It is very fast and rather mathematical—the nearest European equivalent would probably be backgammon.

Ghanaians also use the fruits of the oil palm, *Elaeis guineensis*, as counters and a few other species whose names I cannot now recall.

I have seen the game being played from the Ivory Coast to the Cameroun—in Nigeria it is called 'dara'—so that one may assume it to be common throughout West Africa.

I was surprised, however, to see these same 'oware boards' for sale in Djakarta. Small pebbles were being used as counters, but unfortunately time did not permit a further investigation of the possible use of seeds. An enquiry to the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra produced the information that the game is common in Java, Sumatra and North Sulawesi where it is known as 'dakon', 'congklak' and 'kuwung' respectively.

The seeds of asam, *Tamarindus indica*, and fruits of sawo, *Manilkara kauki*, are used as counters—but the Embassy did not mention *Caesalpinia*.

I suppose it is possible that ships may come here from West Africa, bearing their complement of oware-playing seamen. However, Indonesian ships certainly do visit our coasts and the sailors may well have an oware-board and counters. Perhaps the loss of some of these seeds may account for a few of the beach-washed specimens found on our shores?

My thanks go to M. A. Noerbambang, Cultural Attache, Embassy of Indonesia, and to Dr P. Wyherley, Kings Park Board, who supplied a scientific name for 'sawo'.

—B. M. J. HUSSEY, 45 Miller Street, East Victoria Park.

The elapid snakes *Denisonia pallidiceps* and *Denisonia suta* in the Kimberleys of Western Australia.—Among the additions to the 1957 edition of Glauert's *A Handbook to the Snakes of Western Australia* was a description of *Denisonia suta* based on a specimen from Kimberley Research Station near Kununurra.